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PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Second Ordinary Meeting, December 18, 1843.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected :—

A. W. Barnes, Esq.

Rev. H. Davies.

John Mac Clean, M.D.

Captain Larcom, R.E.

Colonel Colby, R.E..

W. G. Lumley, Esq.

W. A. Graham, Esq.

Thomas Wicksteed, Esq.

James Hodgkin, Esq.

W. Barker, Esq.

Samuel K. Wilson, Esq.

The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into the Society :—

The Hon. E. P. Bouverie.

Henry Hobhouse, Esq.

A paper by Edwin Chadwick, Esq. "On the Proper Modes of Measuring by Statistical Returns the Duration of Life, and the Pressure and Progress of the Causes of Mortality amongst different Classes of the Community and amongst the Population of different Countries," was read. (See p. 1.)

Third Ordinary Meeting, January 15, 1844.

THOMAS TOOKE, Esq., V. P., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected :—

The Hon. E. P. Bouverie.

Henry Hobhouse, Esq.

John Dunlop, Esq. and Richard Clewin Griffith, Esq. were appointed the auditors of the Society's accounts for 1843, in conjunction with Dr. Bowring, M.P., on behalf of the Council.

A paper by G. F. P. Neison, Esq. "On a Method recently proposed for conducting Inquiries into the Comparative Sanatory Condition of various Districts, with Illustrations derived from numerous places in Great Britain at the Period of the last Census," was read. (See p. 40.)

Fourth Ordinary Meeting, February 19, 1844.

The Right Hon. VISCOUNT ASHLEY, M.P., President, in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were formally admitted Fellows of the Society :—

A. W. Barnes, Esq.

Hon. E. P. Bouverie.

Charles Hindley, Esq. M.P.

The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into the Society :—

T. Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P.

Thomas Trevethan Spicer, Esq.

John Meeson Parsons, Esq.

Charles Creag, Esq.

The following letter from Mr. Hallam was read :—

DEAR SIR,

24, Wilton Crescent, February 16, 1844.

I AM very desirous to contribute, as far as in my power, to the promotion of those valuable inquiries into the condition of the poor in metropolitan districts which have been commenced by the Statistical Society, and of which we had a sample last year as to a part of the parish of St. George's, as well as, at an earlier time, as to other districts. I enclose, therefore, a cheque for 25*l.*, which, as I have been informed, will enable the Society to lay before the world the result of a similar investigation into some other portion of the metropolis. The inquiry last year appeared to me so well conducted that, if no objection exists, I should conceive, that the same person might be employed, and it is a matter of some importance, with a view to comparison, that statements necessarily rather too indefinite, such as those as to the condition of the poor must be, should proceed from the same person, and consequently be referred to the same standard.

I would leave wholly to the Society the choice of a parish or district to be thus investigated. The neighbourhood of Fleet-street, Chancery-lane, and Holborn has

been mentioned to me ; but I believe it would be a very favourable specimen of the lower population of this city, and possibly it may be more for the good of the labouring class to bring forward some less happily situated district. This however as I have said, the Council will best determine.

I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,
J. Fletcher, Esq. (Signed) HENRY HALLAM.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Hallam for his liberal donation in aid of the Society's labours.

A paper was read by Joseph Fletcher, Esq. entitled, "The Metropolis: its successive Limits, present Extent, and divisions for Local Government." The length of this paper, and the importance of the subjects treated in it, caused the reading of the latter portion to be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Society on the 18th of March, on the understanding that the arrangements for sewerage would, in the mean time, receive the further consideration of its author.

BILLS OF MORTALITY.

"THE quarterly return, to which the following remarks apply, is derived from 114 districts (subdivided into 571 registrars' districts). Thirty-three of the districts are in the metropolis; and the remaining 81 districts comprise, with some agricultural parishes, the principal towns and cities of England. At the last Census (June 7th, 1841,) the enumerated population of the 114 districts was 6,534,535, or nearly *four-tenths* of the total population. The average annual number of deaths registered in the 114 districts was 163,193, or 47 per cent. of the total deaths registered annually in England."

42,263 deaths were registered in the Autumn quarter of 1843; while 40,683 was the average number in the five Autumns of 1838-42. The *Population* of the districts increased about 5 per cent. every three years from 1831-41, and as it is probable that the increase continued down to 1843, the deaths in the Autumn of 1843 would, at the same rate of mortality as in previous years, be 5 per cent. more numerous. The corrected average with which 42,263 should be compared is 42,717.

The deaths in the provincial districts were 28,525, the uncorrected average number for Autumn being 28,867. The mortality was, therefore, in the aggregate, considerably below the average.

The Mortality of the *Metropolis* was above the average: the deaths were 13,738, or 1,923 more than 11,815, the average of five previous Autumns. After a correction for the increase of population, the excess is 1,368 deaths. Small-pox was fatal to 114 persons; which is below the average (360), but 39 more than in the previous quarter. *Measles*, was more fatal (Deaths 455), and *Scarlatina* destroyed 706 persons, 163 more than in the previous quarter. The epidemic appears to be increasing. Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Cholera were more fatal than usual, 380 persons having died of these diseases. Of the 221 deaths by *Dysentery* in this and the previous quarter, 87 occurred in the Greenwich Union Workhouse during the 14 weeks (August 13th to November 18th). The deaths by the diseases of the nervous system were 226 above the average; the deaths by Bronchitis and Pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) were 2,000, or 695 above the average; and the diseases of the digestive organs proved fatal to 981 persons—215 above the average. Fewer violent and sudden deaths were registered than is usual. The Registrars in the other parts of the kingdom mention as prevalent diseases *Scarlatina*, *Measles*, *Typhus*, and other complaints.

Districts in which the mortality was *higher* than the *Autumn* average of the same districts:—The districts of the *Metropolis*, Maidstone, Winchester, Wycombe, Bedford, Cambridge, Yarmouth, Devizes, Dorchester, Exeter, Bath, Bristol, Clifton, Stroud, Birmingham, Aston, Lincoln, Derby, West Derby (adjoining Liverpool), Wigan, Chorlton, Merthyr Tydvil.

Districts in which the mortality was *lower* than the *Autumn* average of the same districts:—*Windsor*, *Oxford*, Norwich, Redruth, Penzance, *Dudley*, *Walsal*, Wolverhampton, Wolstanton and Burslem, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, Basford, Macclesfield, Great Boughton (including Chester), Liverpool, Prescott, Manchester, Salford, Ashton, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Leeds, Sunderland, Tynemouth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Kendal, Pontypool, Newtown.

The meteorological observations have been discontinued at the apartments of the Royal Society; but the Autumn is considered to have been unusually mild.